

Remarks

Applicant and the undersigned would like to thank the Examiner for his efforts in the examination of this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 22-24, and 29 under 35 USC 112

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 22-24, and 29 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, for nonenablement.

The word "permeable" has been deleted from Claims 1 and 29. Claims 22-24 were previously canceled.

Therefore, it is respectfully believed that Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, and 29 satisfy 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

II. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, and 29 under 35 USC 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, and 29 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Haupt (US 4,344,320).

Independent Claims 1 and 29 have been amended to more particularly point out that which Applicant regards as his invention. In particular, the structure is further defined as "comprising an abutment between two structural elements", and the cavity is recited as being "in fluid communication with the abutment". What is then monitored is the occurrence of "a breach in one of the structural elements adjacent the abutment in fluid communication with the cavity".

As discussed in the undersigned's telephone interview with the Examiner, Haupt discloses a coiled tubing which itself must fracture in order that a fault be detected, whereas the present invention detects a fault in the cavity itself.

Therefore, it is respectfully believed that Claims 1 and 29 are not anticipated by Haupt, and that Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, and 10, dependent therefrom, are also not anticipated by Haupt.

II. Rejection of Claim 6 under 35 USC 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claim 6 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haupt '320 in view of Schulte (US 5,390,533).

As Claim 6 is indirectly dependent from Claim 1, believed patentable, Claim 6 is also believed patentable over the cited art.

III. New Claims 39-52

New Claims 39-52 have been presented to more particularly point out that which Applicant regards as his invention.

Independent Claims 39 and 46 contain similar recitations to those of Claims 1 and 29, with the "structure" being defined as "at least two elements and at least one joiner joining the at least two elements together". Further, the coupling step is directed to a pressure differential that results from a "breach in at least one of the at least two elements and the joiner".

Such a joiner may comprise an elements such as a layer of adhesive between a tile 38 and a hole 40, as shown in FIG. 3, or a rivet 62 as shown in FIG. 4A.

No new matter is entered with the presentation of new Claims 39-52.


Conclusions

Applicant hereby requests a telephonic interview in this case, and the undersigned will contact the Examiner to arrange same.

Applicant respectfully submits that the above arguments and amendments place this application in a condition for allowance, and passage to issue is respectfully solicited. The Applicant and the undersigned would like to again thank the Examiner for his efforts in the examination of this application and for reconsideration of the claims as amended in light of the arguments presented.

If the further prosecution of the application can be facilitated through telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

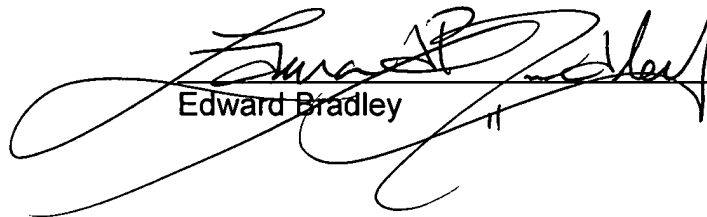
Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the foregoing is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, this 4th day of November, 2004.


Edward Bradley